

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

raze it to the ground.¹ An expression in one of Catherine's letters, referring to the wonderful things that God had wrought four weeks before, *per mezzo di vile creatttra*, has been taken as meaning that she had been instrumental in obtaining the capitulation of the fortress.² Of this, however, we know nothing. Swallowing his discomfiture with the best grace he could, Urban walked barefoot in procession from Santa Maria in Trastevere to St. Peter's, to offer solemn thanks to God for the double victory.

To the Bandaresi and their colleagues, "the maintainers of the Republic of Rome," whom she consistently treats as the temporal rulers of the Eternal City, Catherine addressed a letter on May 6, exhorting them to be grateful for the great benefits they had received from God. Let them show their gratitude by justice to their neighbours, by purity of life, by abstaining from rash judgment, by fidelity to the Church and the vicar of Christ. Nor is the letter without a touch of worldly wisdom : ^{c<} Also I would have you grateful to this Company, who have been the instruments of Christ, helping them in all that is needed, especially with regard to these poor wounded. Bear yourselves charitably and peacefully with them, in order that you may preserve them to your aid, and not let them have any cause for turning against you. Thus it is meet you do, sweetest brothers, both because it is your duty and because it is urgently necessary." ^{ft}It seems to me," she adds, ^c that a little ingratitude is being used towards Giovanni Cenci, who has laboured with such great zeal and fidelity, with an upright heart, only to please God and for our utility (and this I know to be the truth), abandoning everything else to deliver you from the scourge that Castello Sant' Angelo had become to you, and acting in the matter with so much prudence ; not only do they

¹ Letter of April 30, 1379, from Pietro Angeli da Montefiascone, one of the papal secretaries, to the Commune of Montefiascone. Fumi, *op. cit.*, doc. 2. Cf. Benvenuto da Imola, *Comentum*, II. p. 8.

² Letter 351 (20), which in the Harleian MS. is dated May 30, 1379. The MS., however, reads : *per mezzo di vili creature*.